

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05

OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-01 SS-15 L-02 PA-02 PRS-01 DODE-00

AGR-10 /099 W

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R 141244Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8390

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 2099

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF NARCOTICS TOPICS

REF ANKARA 1808

TURKISH PRESS IN RECENT DAYS HAS CONTINUED TO GIVE FAIRLY
PROMINENT PLAY TO STORIES ON NARCOTICS-RELATED SUBJECTS.
MAJOR ITEMS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. MASS CIRCULATION DAILY GUNAYDIN REPORTED MARCH 13
THAT UN SPECIALISTS WHO HAD VISITED TURKEY FOUND THE GOT'S
POPPY CONTROL MEASURES SATISFACTORY. THE UN WOULD BE PROVIDING
TURKEY \$800,000 IN ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONTROL PROGRAM,
AS WELL AS 80 SPECIALLY EQUIPPED JEEPS. ALSO, ACCORDING TO
THE ACCOUNT, THE UN HAS DISCUSSED THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE TO
BE PROVIDED TO TURKISH FARMERS FOR LOSSES RESULTING FROM THE
SWITCH TO THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS.

B. HURRIYET, WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY CARRIED A NUMBER OF
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NARCOTICS-RELATED ARTICLES FEATURED TW STORIES MARCH 12. ONE

(DATELINED WASHINGTON) SAID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS DROPPED FROM THE CURRENT FOREIGN AID BILL "...THE \$15 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO TURKISH FARMERS WHO ARE NOT RPT NOT CULTIVATING THE OPIUM POPPY." A SECOND ARTICLE, ILLUSTRATED WITH A MAP, REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE "OPIUM TRAIL" AND SAID ALL EYES ARE WATCHING ANKARA TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT THE TURKISH GOVT WILL STRICTLY ENFORCE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST INCISING THE PODS.

C. AHMET SUKRU ESMER (MARCH 14 BARIS) ALLEGED THAT THE OPIUM ISSUE HAS BEEN USED TO PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY OVER CYPRUS AND THAT ANTI- TURKISH PROPAGANDA ON THIS ISSUE IS CONTINUING. THE UN NARCOTICS COMMITTEE, HE COMMENTED, WAS SATISFIED WITH THE GOT'S CONTROL MEASURES AND SOME SENATORS AND PRESS IN THE U.S. HAVE BEGUN TO ADMIT THAT EARLIER CRITICISMS OF TURKEY WERE "EXAGGERATED AND UNFAIR." NOTING REPORTS THAT OPIUM CULTIVATION IN U.S. IS BEING CONSIDERED, ESMER ASKED WHETHER POPPY CULTIVATION WAS BANNED IN TURKEY SO THAT THE U.S. COULD GROW ITS OWN. MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA02099
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750090-0469
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750352/aaaabubs.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 1808
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <02 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF NARCOTICS TOPICS
TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006